

Amendments to the Drawings:

Formal drawings are filed herewith.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4, 7, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include the language, "a second drive device for moving said wafer into mechanical contact with said polishing pad." This is described in lines 12-20 in the instant disclosure. Claims 4 and 10 have been amended to include the limitation, "spray nozzle is held in a position by said piping proximate said center axis directly above said polishing pad." The center axis is the axis of rotation of the polishing pad. Claims 4 and 10 simply describe the embodiment where the piping is held above the polishing pad in a position near the center axis of the polishing pad. This is illustrated in Figures 2B and 2C.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tolles.

Claim 1 of the instant invention comprises the limitations of a dispenser located in proximity above said polishing pad and adapted for dispensing a slurry to said polishing pad, said slurry is cooperable with said mechanical contact for effecting polishing of said wafer, said dispenser further including a plurality of nozzles each for delivering a wash solution to said polishing pad for cleaning said slurry from said polishing pad; and an extension adapted for coupling to a distal end of said dispenser for delivering said wash solution to an area proximate to said center axis for cleaning said slurry from said polishing pad. The dispenser described in claim 1 includes dispensers for slurry and cleaning solution. This is equivalent to the dispenser 40 described in the Tolles reference with the associated slurry dispenser 42 and the cleaning solution dispensers 44. In addition to these elements, claim 1 further comprises an extension adapted for coupling to a distal end of the dispenser for delivering cleaning solution to an area proximate the center of the polishing pad. Such a

feature is not described in the Torres reference. In describing this feature, the examiner points to the nozzles 44, 46. As described above, these nozzles 44, 46 represent the plurality of nozzles for delivering a wash solution to the polishing pad described in claim 1. The nozzles 44, 46 therefore do not represent the additional limitation of an extension as required by claim 1. This element is missing from the Torres reference and claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference. Claim 2 -6 depend on claim 1 and therefore contain all the limitations of claim 1. Claims 2-6 are therefore also allowable over the cited art.

Claim 7 comprises the limitations of the dispenser further including a plurality of nozzles each for delivering a wash solution to said polishing pad and an extension adapted for coupling to a distal end of said dispenser for delivering said wash solution to an area proximate to said center axis for cleaning said slurry from said polishing pad. As described above, claim 7 is allowable over the Torres reference. Claims 8-12 depend on claim 7 and therefore contain all the limitations of claim 7. Claims 8-12 are therefore also allowable over the cited art.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 3 and 9, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, would be allowable.

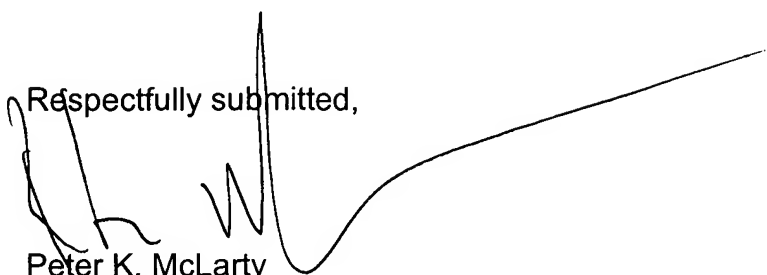
In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

While it is believed that the instant response places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including

extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Texas Instruments Incorporated,
Account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter K. McLarty', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter K. McLarty
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,923

Texas Instruments Incorporated
P.O. Box 655474, MS 3999
Dallas, TX 75265
(972) 917-4258